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Docket No.: SEKI-001

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Yutaka YASUKURA

Serial No. 09/445,060

Confirm. No.: 9420

Filed: December 2, 1999

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: Group Art Unit: 2132  
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: Examiner: Courtney D. Fields  
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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

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Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated July 2, 2003, please consider the following remarks:

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Reconsideration in view of the following  
Remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Padgett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,535,978, hereinafter Padgett). Since Padgett is not prior art, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The priority date for the pending application is May 21, 1998. The effective filing date for Padgett is July 28, 1998. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that since the present application was filed with an effective filing date prior to the reference's effective filing date, the